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LETTER DATED 9 JUNE 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement on Angola issued on 8 June 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Dieter KASTRUP
Permanent Representative of Germany
to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English/French]

Statement on Angola issued on 8 June 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union fully supports the strong condemnation of the shooting down of a Russian Antonov-26 commercial aircraft by the Angolan rebel movement UNITA on 12 May 1999 as stated by the President of the Security Council on 19 May. Neither the fate of the Russian crew nor of the Angolan passengers has been cleared up yet, nor could the investigation into the shooting down of other aircraft over UNITA controlled territory, including the downings on 26 December 1998 and 2 January 1999 of two aircraft chartered by the United Nations, be brought to an end.

The European Union therefore urgently appeals to UNITA to release the three Russian crew members and any other possible hostages. In addition, it appeals to the Angolan Government and, in particular, to UNITA to fully cooperate with the United Nations.

The European Union is seriously concerned about the rapid deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Angola. While remaining committed to helping to alleviate the suffering of the Angolan population affected by the war, the European Union reminds the Government and, in particular, UNITA of their responsibility to cooperate in full with the United Nations and humanitarian organizations in their efforts to provide assistance and relief to all those in need in Angola.

Furthermore the European Union recalls its statement of 28 December 1998.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.